(b) The State Government have taken a number of initiatives in terms of administrative reforms, decentralization and simplification of procedure, delegation of powers, etc. resulting in increasing levels of expenditure during the period 2004-05 to 2006-07.

(c) Does not arise.

Definition of poverty tine

†3124. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the definition of poverty line;

(b) the population living below the poverty line in the year 2001 and the number of people living below the poverty line in the year 2006;

(c) the facilities being provided to the people living below the poverty line by the Central Government and the State Government; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Planning Commission uses a poverty line based on per capita consumption expenditure as the criterion to determine the persons living below the poverty line. The per capita consumption norm has been fixed at Rs. 49.09 per month in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 per month in urban areas at 1973-74 prices at national level corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily claore requirement of 2400 kcal in the rural areas and 2100 kcal in the urban areas. The state-specific poverty lines are derived from the national level poverty lines, using state-specific price indices and inter-state price differentials. The national poverty line at 2004-05 prices is Rs. 356.30 per month in the rural areas and Rs. 538.60 per capita per month in the urban areas.

(b) The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey On household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years following the methodology

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

contained in the Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (Lakadwala Committee).

On the basis of the latest large sample survey data on household consumer expenditure (61 st Round of NSS), Covering the period July, 2004 to June, 2005 [Report No. 508 (61/1.0/1)], two different consumption distributions for the year 2004-05 tiave been obtained. The first one from the consumption data collected using 30-day recall period (also known as reference period) for all the items. The other distribution is obtained from the consumer expenditure data collected using 365-day recall period for five infrequently purchased non-food items, namely, clothing, footwear, durable goods, educaiton and institutional medical expenses and 30-day recall period for the remaining items. These two consumption distributions have been termed as Uniform Recall Period (URP) consumption distribution and Mixed Recall Period (MRP) consumption distribution respectively. The Planning Commission, using the Expert Group methodology has estimated poverty in 2004-05 using both the distributions.

The URP-consumption distribution data of the 61st Round yields a poverty ratio of 28.3 percent in the rural areas, 25.7 percent in the urban areas and 27.5 percent for the country as a whole in 2004-05. The corresponding figures obtained from the MRP-consumption distribution data of the 61 st Round are 21.8 percent in the rural areas, 21.7 percent in the urban areas and 21.8 percent for the country as a whole.

(c) and (d) Addressing the problem of poverty, Government of India has initiated many schemes aimed at sustainable development of rural areas with a focus on weaker and vulnerable sections. National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGA) provides a social net for the vulnerable groups and an opportunity-to combine growth equity. Its objective is to ensure that local employment is available to every rural household for atleast 100 days in a financial year and that in process of employment generation, durable asets are built up that strengthen the livelihood resource base of the rural poor. With the objective of providing additional gainful employment in the rural areas as food security,, alongside the creation of durable community, social and economic infrastructure in the rural areas, the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) was launched. The programme is self-targeting in nature with special emphasis on providing wage employment to women, SC,ST and parents of children withdrawn

from hazardous occupations. The promotion of self-empioyment amongst the rural poor for their socio-economic uplift has been long an integral part of the strategy for poverty eradication and devleopment in rural areas. Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is the largest self-employment programme for the rural poor. The basic objective of the scheme is to bring the assisted poor families above the poverty line by providing them income generation assets through a mix of bank credits and government subsidy. The programme aims at establishing a large number of micro enterprises in rural areas based on the ability of the poor and potential of each area. Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) is one of the components of Bharat Nirman Programme. Under the Bharat Nirman Scheme it is envisaged to construct 60 lakh houses over the next four years across the country. A sanitary latrine, smokeless chullah and a proper drainage are provided to each houses constructed under the scheme.

Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) was launched by the Honorable Prime Minister on 3rd December, 2005 for creating infrastructure and also to provide Basic Services for Urban Poor with an outlay of Rs. 50,000 crore for a 7-year period beginning 2005-06. Sub-Mission on Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) is being implemented in the 63 selected cities of the country as a part of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). The main thrust of the programme is on integrated development of slums through providing shelter, basic services and other related civic amenities to the urban poor. The other components of JNNURM, *i.e.* Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) is being implemented in urban areas other than 63 mission Cities. With a view to provide training and gainful employment to the urban poor, Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is being implemented in the urban areas.

Criteria for Poverty and BPL identification

3125. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the specific criterion for estimation of poverty incidence in the country and identification of individual BPL households;